Memorandum for the File

I telephoned John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Office, State of Tennessee, on September 20, 1976. Mr. Carlisle indicated the AG had given him the ok to give me the information which I previously requested. He further stated that he had found a report containing the information. He summarized the report as follows:

Police Officer Edward Redditt was assigned to the Community Relations Division until sometime in February, 1968 when he was pulled off and put on a surveillance detail with respect to the sanitation workers. During February and March Redditt received several threats on his life. On April 3, 1968, he was assigned to keep Dr. King under surveillance. He went to the International Airport, along with several other officers, to meet Dr. King. Dr. King and his aides did not request any security.

While waiting at the airport a Mrs. Thomas Matthews, who was acting as chauffeur for Dr. King, pointed her finger at Redditt and said she was going to get him. Later, Mrs. Matthews informed another police officer that they "did not desire a police escort." Mr. Carlisle said this quote came from Lt. Davis.

Mr. Carlisle stated the report indicated that Mrs. Matthews was interviewed on April 11, 1968, at which time she confirmed the fact that Dr. King did not desire a police escort, but no mention was made of a threat on officer Redditt's life.

I informed Mr. Carlisle that the particular threat that I was concerned with was from an out-of-town source and resulted in Redditt being relieved from duty. Mr. Carlisle agreed to continue searching the records for this particular report and suggested that I call him on Wednesday, September 22, 1976.

James F. Walker

JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Memorandum of Interview of John Carlisle

I telephoned John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Office, State of Tenn., on September 22, 1976, with respect to information previously requested regarding a threat on the life of police officer Edward Redditt. Carlisle stated that he believed he had found the report and related the following information:

On or about April 3, 1968, Philip R. Manuel, of the U.S. Senate Investigating Committee for Senator McClellan, was in the Memphis Police Department (MPD) when he received a message to call his office in Washington. He called his office and was advised that a reliable informant of theirs in Mississippi had called them and advised of a plan that the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party had made to kill the Negro lieutenant in Memphis. This information was immediately given to the MPD by Manuel. Manuel also advised the MPD that he could not get any specific details because Jack Dross, his associate, had left the office. However, Manuel told the MPD that he was returning to Washington on a 5:50p.m. flight that day and would call them the next day.

The next day Manuel telephoned the MPD and advised them the Negro lieutenant referred to in the threat was in Knoxville rather than in Memphis.

Carlisle said Redditt was a detective at the time, but was in the "thick of things." He surmises that the MPD put two and two together and figured the information related to Redditt because of previous threats on his life.

Carlisle stated that he could not send me a copy of the report unless he was authorized to do so by AG Hugh Stanton. Other relevant reports of the MPD which he has in his office include a 50 to 75 page homicide report and reports relating to the sanitation workers strike and the Invaders.

James F. Walker

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